

REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 28-33 and 36-48 are pending in this application, claims 25, 28-33 and 36-47 having been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13 and 22 are amended and claim 48 is added. No new matter is added. Claim 1 is amended to remove a feature. Support for the amendment to claims 13 and 22 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0047] and [0048]; and support for new claim 48 can be found in the subject matter of claim 1.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Bowers at the personal interview held October 8, 2009, and the telephone interview held October 13, 2009 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interviews as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interviews.

As agreed during the personal and telephone interviews, because the rejections will be withdrawn, the amendments to the claims will be entered. Also, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-15 and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over International Publication No. WO 00/18226 to Owen et al. (hereinafter "Owen") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0029266 to Barbera-Guillem and U.S. Patent No. 6,953,655 to Hassanein et al. (hereinafter "Hassanein"); claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-15 and 18-24 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,586,438 to Fahy in view of Barbera-Guillem and Hassanein; claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Owen or Fahy in view of Barbera-Guillem and Hassanein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,582,953 to Brasile; and claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Owen or Fahy in view of Barbera-Guillem and Hassanein, and further in view of EP 03-37677 to Eudailey et al. (hereinafter "Eudailey"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or would have rendered obvious a portable housing including more than one lid that forms a substantially airtight seal with the portable housing, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9; and a portable housing including two lids that each form a substantially airtight seal with the portable housing, as recited in independent claims 13 and 22. For example, as shown in Figures 6A and 6B, the perimeter of the more than one lid forms an airtight seal with the portable housing, for example, in addition to the pressure control valve or device, closable vent, membrane, etc. present in some embodiments.

The Office Action acknowledges that Owen, Barbera-Guillem and Fahy do not disclose a housing having more than one lid. The Office Action further alleges that Hassanein discloses a first lid (Figure 2:102) and a second lid (Figure 2:104). However, as agreed during the personal interview, Hassanein does not disclose a portable housing that includes more than one lid that forms a substantially airtight seal with the portable housing, as recited in the independent claims.

Moreover, Brasile and Eudailey do not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Owen, Barbera-Guillem, Fahy and Hassanein.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 9, 13 and 22 are patentable over the applied references. Further, claims 2-8, 10-12, 14-21, 23 and 24, which variously depend

from claims 1, 9, 13 and 22, are also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Further, new claim 48, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites.

II. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

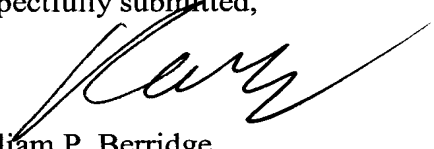
Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn independent claims 25 and 33, upon the allowance of at least independent claims 1 and 22, respectively. Independent claims 25 and 33 include features similar to those recited in independent claims 1 and 22, respectively. Thus, upon allowance of claims 1 and 22, rejoinder and allowance of claims 25 and 33, and the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested. See MPEP §821.04.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Randi B. Isaacs
Registration No. 56,046

WPB:RBI/hs

Attachment:
Petition For Extension of Time

Date: October 19, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
